



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Delta Battery, 1ST BATTALION, 40TH FIELD ARTILLERY
6050 NE Rothwell Street
Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503

15 January 2015

Commander, Delta Battery, 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery

Dear Friends and Family Members,

Greetings from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, the home of the Field Artillery. My name is Captain Michael S. Layland and I am the commander of the Delta Battery, 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery Regiment. I am writing to inform you your Soldier has arrived safely and begun Basic Combat Training here in the 434 Field Artillery Brigade, United States Army Training Center.

We are extremely proud that your Soldier has volunteered to join a time honored profession of service to our Nation in the Army. The Army is fortunate to have extremely well qualified, patriotic, and highly motivated individuals who have chosen to join our team. Over the next nine weeks your Soldier will begin the transformation from a civilian to a Soldier in the United States Army. Your Soldier will learn the basic Soldier skills that are required to fight and win on today's modern battlefield. The training will be strenuous and demanding. The tasks your Soldier will perform develops the discipline and self-confidence necessary to be a successful Soldier in today's Army. Your Soldier will conduct physical training daily to build physical strength and conditioning and also instill teamwork, pride and enthusiasm in themselves and their unit. Your Soldier will learn in great detail military customs, courtesies, and traditions as well as policies and procedures on how Soldiers conduct themselves as members of the military team. Additionally, they will learn how to engage the enemy with a rifle, learn how to care for their buddy using first aid, learn how to navigate with a map and a compass, all the while immersed in an environment of the Seven Army Values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage; it is these values that shape who and what we are as Soldiers and warriors.

The cadre and Drill Sergeants who will be training your Soldier are a very dedicated group of professionals, genuinely concerned about the health, welfare, and training of each Soldier. We consider our Soldiers to be the most important asset of the Army's future.

Your Soldier had the opportunity to call home during the first week of Basic Combat Training but phone privileges will be extremely limited for the next few weeks. Later in training your Soldier will have the opportunity to use the phone on weekends, primarily Sunday afternoons. I do encourage you to write to your Soldier. A little bit of encouragement from home goes a long way in keeping the Soldier engaged and motivated. While packages are allowed please do not send magazines, weapons/knives, or other "contraband" items (soda, candy, electronics, tobacco products, etc...). Send mail to:

PVT (your soldier's name)
6050 NE Rothwell Street
1-40th FA BN, D BTRY, PLT _____
Fort Sill, OK 73503-6204

I highly encourage you to attend the Family Day activities on 19 March 2015, and Graduation on 20 March 2015. We will be sending out another letter about mid-way through the cycle with specific information in regards to the Family Day and Graduation ceremonies along with a timeline of events. You can also find information about Ft. Sill and the Lawton area at the Chamber of Commerce website: <http://www.lawtonfortsillchamber.com/index.php?pr=Lodging> . There is also great information on the 434th FA BDE website at: <http://sill-www.army.mil/434/index.htm> . Family and friends will have the opportunity to spend time with their Soldier after both Family Day and Graduation so please plan to spend a couple of extra days in the local area. More information regarding the end of the cycle activities will be sent out in a future letter as we get closer towards the end of the cycle.

Please do not hesitate to contact the battery with any concerns regarding your Soldier. The Battery Commander is CPT Michael Layland and the First Sergeant is 1SG Rene Loreda and their telephone numbers are (580) 442-1221/5886. If a true emergency arises at home (i.e. serious injury, illness, or worse, of a family member (spouse, parent, in-law, sibling, or child)) please call the American Red Cross (877) 272-7337 in order to quickly get the message to the unit and the Soldier. Finally, we're on Facebook; search for "Delta Battery 1st BN 40th FA" or navigate to:

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fort-Sill-Ok/Delta-Battery-1st-BN-40th-FA/142431989105177?v=app_2373072738&ref=sgm#!/pages/Fort-Sill-Ok/Delta-Battery-1st-BN-40th-FA/142431989105177?v=wall

I look forward to meeting you and hope you are able to attend your Soldier's graduation. Thank you for the support of your Soldier!

DELTA DAWGS!

MICHAEL S. LAYLAND
Captain, Field Artillery
Commanding